THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, not yet Sir.

(b) According to National Telecom Policy 1994, companies registered in India will be allowed to participate in the expansion of the telecommunication network in the area of basic telephone services to suppliments the efforts of the Department of Telecommunication in providing telecom Services.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir, the names of the private companies (including foreign companies and joint venture companies) who have submitted proposal to the Govt. to oprate basic telecom services in the State of Gujarat areas under:

1. M/s. Archana Telecom Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore

2. Gujarat Industrial Invest. Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad (with Qualcomm. Inc. USA and Modi)

3. ITI Ltd., Bangalore

4. AT&T USA

5. L&T Ltd., Bombay

6. Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Co. Ltd., Bharuch (with Qualcomm Inc. USA)

7. Synthetics & Chemicals Ltd. New Delhi

8. Reliance Industries Ltd. Bombay

9. Mobile Communication System Inc USA

The guidelines to be laid down for participation of Private Sector Companies as per National Telecom Policy 94 are under consideration of the Government.

Investment in the Indian Telephone Industry

900 SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total investment in the Indian Telephone Industry in the country;

(b) what is the employment of officers, technicians and workers category-wise in the Indian Telephone Industry;

(c) what is total capacity of the Indian Telephone Industry and what is its actual utilisation stating the reasons for shortfall in the utilisation of its full capacity; and

(d) whether there is any retrenchment in the ITI, if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The gross block of the ITI Ltd. is Rs. 628.98 crores as on 31-3-1994.

(b) There are 6147 officers and 22267 non-officers in ITI Ltd. as at the end of June, 1994.

(c) The capacity is defined in terms of finished products but in Telecom sector changes in product mix, technology, level of integration, the stages of the product life cycle etc. very commonly influence the capacity of the projects. It is, therefore, difficult to arrive at the exact capacity for various products of the Company. Overall, till last year there has been no under utilisation of capacities but during the current year, mainly due to competition, ITI Ltd. in 4 of its units *viz* Rae Bareli, Naini, Electronic City Unit and Bangalore is finding it difficult to get sufficient orders. However, 30 per cent of total requirements of equipments manufactured by our own Public Sector Units has been assured for ensuring proper utilization of their capacities.

(d) There has been no retrenchment in ITI Ltd.

Losses to ITI for lack of orders

901. SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the capacity in the Indian Telephone Industry in

the country is grossly under utilised for lack of orders;

(b) if so, the percentage of underutilisation of the ITI capacity;

(c) the estimated annual loss being suffered by ITI as a result thereof; and

(d) what are the reasons for lack of orders and what steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The capacity is defined in terms of finished products but in telecom sector changes in product mix, technology, level of integration, the stages of the product life cycle etc. very commonly influence the capacity of the project. It is, therefore, difficult to arrive at the exact capacity for various products of the Company. Overall, till last year there has been no under utilisation of capacities but during the current year, mainly due to competition, ITI Ltd. in 4 of its units viz. Rae Bareli, Naini, Electronic City Unit and Bangalore is finding it difficult to get sufficient orders.

(c) ITI Ltd. has been making profits and efforts are on to ensure to avoid any losses.

(d) The main reason for difficulties in getting sufficient orders in the environment of competition. With a view to remain a profit making Company as also to utilise its infrastructure optimally, apart from ungradation of technologies, improving quality to international standards, adopting various cost reduction measures and diversifying the activities to networks, value added services and operating the telecom services, the Ministry has taken a policy decision that the procurement of 30 per cent equipments out of the total requirement by DOT would be earmarked for our own USUs without any concession in respect of price, quality or supply schedule.

Laying of telephone lines on lease basis

902. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications have floated tenders for laying of telephone lines on lease basis recently;

(b) if so, how many companies participated in the bid from within the country and abroad; and

(c) the terms and conditions for laying of phone lines on lease basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A tender for financing of Telecommunication equipments/projects through lease financing or on deferred payment terms was opened on 15-6-1994.

(b) 69 bidders have participated in this tender. Only Indian Registered Companies/Institutions were eligible to participate in the tender.

(c) The terms and conditions for obtaining finance on lease or deferred payment for the above are unedr formulation, based on the offers received and on Department's requirement.

Waiting list for telephone connection in Tamil Nadu

903. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the plan outlay for communications improvement in Tamil Nadu sector for the year 1994 to 1995;

(b) how many applications are in the waiting list for telephone connections for the year ending 1994 in Madras, Caimbatore, Salem, Dr. Ambedkar District Villupuram, SSR District;